

Appl. No. : 09/514,999
Filed : February 29, 2000

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~.

1 (cancelled)

2 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 910, wherein said nuclease is a nuclease contained in the yeast somatic components.

3 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 910, wherein the yeast somatic components are obtained from yeast selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Candida utilis*.

4 (previously amended): The method according to Claim 10, wherein the decomposition step is conducted by digesting the yeast somatic components with nuclease added to a solution containing the yeast somatic components, at a pH value of 3 -10 and at a temperature of 10-70°C.

5 (previously amended): The method according to Claim 10, wherein the decomposition step is conducted by hydrolyzing at 20-100°C the yeast somatic components with alkali added to a solution containing the yeast somatic components at a normality of 0.1-5N.

6 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 910, wherein the yeast somatic components are an extract obtained by physically crushing yeast using a high-pressure homogenizer and an ultrasonic disintegrator.

7 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 910, wherein the yeast somatic components are an extract obtained from yeast using hot water at a pH value of 4-8 and at a temperature of 90-100°C, wherein sodium chloride is added to a yeast suspension with a yeast concentration of 5-25% to make a salt concentration of 1-10%.

8 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 910, wherein the yeast somatic components are an extract obtained by autolyzing yeast.

9 (canceled)

10 (currently amended): A method of obtaining polyamines, comprising the steps of:
providing yeast somatic components selected from the group consisting of extracts obtained from yeast by physical crushing, extracts obtained from yeast by autolysis, extracts obtained from yeast with hot water, and yeast RNA compositions;
subjecting said yeast somatic components to nuclease digestion or alkali

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hydrolysis as a decomposition step for at least a time period ~~effective~~ of 0.1-24 hours to increase the yield of polyamines recovered in a subsequent recovery step by approximately 2-3.2 times as compared with the yield of polyamines recovered in the subsequent recovery step without this decomposition step; and

recovering polyamines from said decomposed components.